



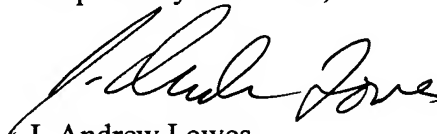
PATENT / DOCKET NO. 31181.26
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-20 of prior U.S. Patent 6,221,074. Claim 1 has been amended in light of this rejection and a number of the dependent claims have been amended to more clearly focus on specific aspects of the present invention. Additionally, new claims 49-52 (identical to previously cancelled claims 45-48) are also presented for consideration in the present application.

It is believed that the claims are now in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested. The undersigned would welcome a telephone call to discuss any issues which may remain.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Andrew Lowes
Reg. No. 40,706

Date: 9/26/03
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789
Telephone: 972-680-7557
Facsimile: 972-692-9057
File: 31567.3
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